

**Patent claims**

1. A method for extracting milk from animals of a total number of animals wherein the extracted milk yield is determined of a subgroup of animals only.  
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2. The method according to claim 1 wherein a total milk yield of the total number of animals is derived from the milk yield extracted.
3. The method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein a milk yield of an individual  
10 animal of at least one animal of a subgroup of animals is determined.
4. The method according to claims 1, 2 or 3, wherein at least one animal, preferably one of the subgroup, is identified.
- 15 5. The method according to any of the claims 1 to 4 wherein individual animal data are stored.
6. The method according to any of the claims 2 to 5 wherein individual animal data are taken into account when determining the total milk yield.  
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7. The method according to any one or more of the preceding claims wherein a measure or a characteristic for a cumulated lactation milk yield is derived for at least one animal of the subgroup of animals.
- 25 8. The method according to any of the claims 1 to 7 wherein a measure or a characteristic for a daily milk yield and/or a milk yield per week and/or a milk yield per month is derived for at least one animal of the subgroup of animals.
9. The method according to any one or more of the preceding claims wherein the  
30 length of time between milking is taken into account.

10. The method according to any one or more of the preceding claims wherein the determined milk yields are compared with milk yield prognoses.
- 5 11. The method according to any of the claims 1 to 10, wherein the milk yields extracted are measured for between 1 % and 75 %, in particular between 2 % and 50 %, preferably between 3 % and 20 % of the total number of milking units (4).
12. The method according to any one or more of the preceding claims wherein the animals whose milk yields are determined are selected randomly.
- 10 13. The method according to any of the claims 1 to 11 wherein the milk yields of specified animals are determined.
- 15 14. The method according to any of the claims 1 to 13 wherein during a second milking session the milk yields of animals are determined which were not determined during a first milking session.
- 20 15. The method according to any of the claims 1 to 14 wherein over a specified period of time, in particular of days, weeks or months, a group of animals is selected out of a herd whose milk yields or characteristics corresponding to the milk yields are determined.
- 25 16. The method according to any of the claims 1 to 9 wherein a comparison is made of the actual milk yield with milk yield prognoses and in dependence on the result of said comparison, at least one process is initiated.
- 30 17. A device for extracting milk from animals out of a total number of animals comprising a plurality of milking units (4), characterized by a means suitable for determining the extracted milk yield of only some of the milking places (5).

18. The device according to claim 17, characterized in that the device comprises measuring units (5) wherein only some of the milking units are connected with the measuring units (5).
- 5 19. The device according to claim 17 or 18, characterized in that a selection means (9) is provided which is connected with a control means (7), in particular electrically.
20. The device according to claim 17, 18 or 19, characterized in that identification  
10 means (8) interact with the selection means (9).